

ABSTRACT

A tertiary CAM cell with three bits of storage is disclosed. The three bits of storage are arranged to support three stable states which can be read from the CAM cell without requiring a charge restoration operation. The three stable states are those states where one of the three bits is at a first logical state while the remaining two bits are at a second logical state. The three stable states may be used to encode the three logical states used in a ternary CAM.